

# **NORTH CAROLINA'S CONSERVATION TRUST FUNDS:**

# Protecting Clean Water, Forests, Farms, and Historic Sites

#### CLEAN WATER MANAGEMENT TRUST FUND



MISSION: To clean up pollution in surface waters and to protect unpolluted waters

**TYPES OF PROJECTS FUNDED:** The trust fund makes grants to local governments, nonprofit conservation organizations, and state agencies to:

- 1. acquire land and easements that protect forests along rivers and streams to prevent sediment and nutrients from polluting the water
- 2. improve wastewater treatment and stormwater management
- 3. restore damaged wetlands and streams
- 4. develop plans to protect water quality

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS SINCE 1996:** The trust fund has helped protect 3,612 miles of riparian buffers, preserve 317,529 acres of land and upgrade 197 wastewater and stormwater systems.

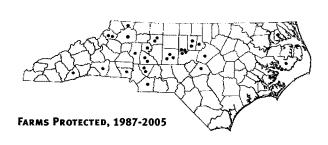
FUNDING LEVEL IN 2005-2006: \$100 million
SOURCE OF FUNDING: General appropriations\*

GOVERNANCE: A 21-member Board of Trustees appointed by the Governor

and General Assembly

ESTABLISHED: 1996 (NCGS 113-145)

#### AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT AND FARMLAND PRESERVATION TRUST FUND



**MISSION:** To promote the development and sustainability of farming and assist in the transition of existing farms to new farm families

**TYPES OF PROJECTS FUNDED:** The trust fund can make grants to counties and to nonprofit conservation organizations to purchase agricultural conservation easements and to fund private and public enterprise programs that promote profitable family farms

ACCOMPLISHMENTS SINCE 1986: The trust fund received funding in only six years since its creation in 1986. Between 1998 and 2003, when the General Assembly appropriated a total of \$2.6 million, the trust fund helped protect 4,412 acres of working farms. In 2005, The NC Legislature appropriated \$50,000 which the NC Department of Agriculture has used to establish an advisory committee for the trust fund and begin developing a program and grants criteria that can be used when the Legislature appropriates additional funding.

Funding Level in 2005-2006: \$50,000

Source of Funding: General appropriations

**GOVERNANCE:** A 19-member Advisory Committee made up of three practicing farmers appointed by the Governor and General Assembly and other members representing state agencies and organizations representing farming, conservation and forestry interests.

ESTABLISHED: 1986 and amended in 2005 (NCGS 106-744)

## NATURAL HERITAGE TRUST FUND



NATURAL HERITAGE PROJECTS, 1987-2005

**MISSION:** To acquire and protect land with outstanding natural and cultural heritage value and to inventory special natural areas in the state

TYPES OF PROJECTS FUNDED: The following state agencies are eligible for grants to purchase significant lands for state parks, forests, historic sites, coastal waters, game lands, and natural areas: NC Department of Environment & Natural Resources, Plant Conservation Program of the NC Department of Agriculture, Wildlife Resources Commission and Department of Cultural Resources.

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS SINCE 1987:** The trust fund has helped protect 217,000 acres across the state.

Funding Level in 2005-2006: \$19 million

**Source of Funding:** 25% of the state's deed excise stamp tax and a portion of personalized license plate sales\*

GOVERNANCE: A 12-member Board of Trustees appointed by the Governor

and General Assembly

ESTABLISHED: 1987 (NCGS 113-77)

### PARKS AND RECREATION TRUST FUND



■ STATE PARKS PROJECTS, 1994-2005

GRANTS TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS, 1994-2005

**MISSION:** To expand and improve state and local parks and to increase public beach access in North Carolina

**TYPES OF PROJECTS FUNDED:** 65% of the funds are used to purchase land and improve facilities in North Carolina's state park system; 30% are given as grants to local governments to help them create and improve local parks; and 5% are used to increase access to beaches and estuaries

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS SINCE 1994:** The trust fund has helped acquire 2,694 acres of local park land and 28,842 acres of land for the state parks system.

FUNDING LEVEL IN 2005-2006: \$45 million

Source of Funding: 75% of the state's portion of the deed excise stamp tax\*

GOVERNANCE: An 11-member Board of Trustees appointed by the Governor

and General Assembly

ESTABLISHED: 1994 (NCGS 113-44.15)

\*In 2004, the Clean Water, Natural Heritage and Parks and Recreation trust funds were authorized by the General Assembly to use certificates of participation to borrow \$45 million to protect land at Lake James State Park and to provide natural and agricultural buffers around military bases. The trust funds worked together successfully to protect such lands. These funds are being paid back through the annual appropriations to the trust funds.



LAND for TOMORROW

Prepared by: Land for Tomorrow, a partnership of North Carolinians working for a \$1 billion Land and Water Conservation Bond

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